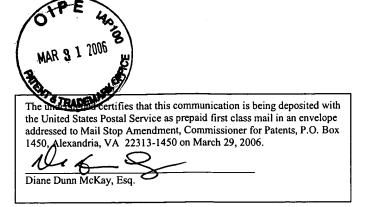


Docket No. 4296-144 US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of HIRAO et al.

Serial No. 09/919,024

Filed: July 31, 2001

Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP REACTOR

Customer No. 26817 Group Art Unit: 1625

Examiner: OH, Taylor Victor

Confirmation No. 3715

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

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Sir:

This response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2005.